THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) All major works except a small portion of the Tail Race Tunnel of the Salal Hydroelectric Project have been completed. Due to weak geology, loose muck and boulders had started flowing in a stretch of about 9 metres of unfinished Tail Race Tunnel of the project on 31-5-1987. Afer removing debris and draining out the water in the cavities, extensive step by step grouting, to fill the cavities is being carried out through out the tunnel in the shear zones, having weak geology. Additional steel supports have also been provided at the critical locations.

Setting up of notional drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority

899. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to have greater control over ehe quality of drugs purchased in the country, Government have decided to set up National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority;

(b) if so, by when the same will be constituted; and

(c) what will be the main functions of the said drugs authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Drug and Pharmaceutical Authority (NDPA) is being set up with the objective of ensuring rational use of drugs by edequately testing their therapeutic efficacy and to coordinate matters relating to development of drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in the country. The time frame for setting up of the proposed Authority is one year.

R & D Programme in BHEL

900. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the survival of BHEL, the only indigenous manufacturer of power generating equipment, rests on Research and Development Programme;

(b) what is the total amount allocated for research and development programme in BHEL for the last three years; and

(c) whether any headway has been made in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (c) The R&D activities in BHEL are directed towards assimilation and adaptation of a judicious mix of indigenous and imported technologies, cost reduction, etc. keeping in view the market preferences.

The R&D efforts in BHEL have resulted in successful commercial development of a number of Products/Systems.

(b) The annual expenditure in BHEL on R&D during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	expenditure
	Rs/crores
1984-85	26
1985-86	28
1986-87	42*

*Subject to Government audit.

Fuel efficient vehicles by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

901. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited has employed modern manufacturing technology to produce fuel efficient vehicles on a large scale;